

Stormwater Utilities and Fees

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Stormwater Utilities are effective mechanisms for generating revenue to manage stormwater.

- In existence in U.S. for past 25 years – west coast, southwest, and southeast
- Collect fees from residents to pay for a product
- Product not as tangible as water or electricity

Elements of a Stormwater Utility

- Administration
- Public Education and Outreach
- Design and Engineering
- Operations and Maintenance
- Regulation and Enforcement
- Construction

Legal foundation of the Stormwater Utility is the municipal ordinance.

- Establishes utility and its power to collect fees
- States who will oversee operations
- Lays out the fee structure and rate
- Provides a process for appeals
- Specifies where fees will be deposited

Chicopee's Stormwater Fee

WHY?

- Major problem with CSOs
- In-cellar storage of combined sewage
- EPA Administrative Order
- \$150 million price tag for CSO separation





Chicopee's Stormwater Fee

HOW?

- Partnership Approach
- Built a coalition thru public outreach
- Assessed raising sewer fee vs. creating new stormwater fee
- 3 year process

Chicopee's Stormwater Fee

RESULTS?

- Adopted Storm Fee Rate Schedule in 1999
 - \$10/quarter for all single family residents
 - \$.30/1,000 sq.ft. for all other customers with a max fee of \$100 per quarter
- Since FY04
 - \$20/quarter for all single family residents
 - \$.40/1,000 sq.ft. for all other customers with a max fee of \$130 per quarter

Since 1999, Chicopee's Stormwater Fee has raised almost \$5 million for:

- 8 New Staff dedicated to stormwater system maintenance
- Maintenance Equipment
- Outreach Materials
- Leveraged \$10.6 million in SRF bond authorizations for sewer separation, storm sewer mapping, and CSO treatment

Ongoing Public Outreach Critical!!

- Board of Alderman continue to fund CSO separation one year at a time.
- Politicians, residents, and business community need to know how their money is being spent!
- DPW very responsive to public complaints and inquiries.
- Outreach focuses on what people are getting for their money vs. environmental improvement

For More Information

How To Create a Stormwater Utility Kit

www.pvpc.org/docs/landuse/storm_util.pdf

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